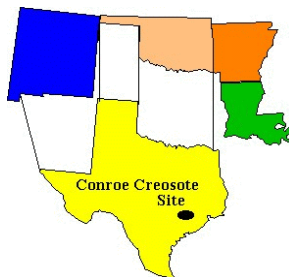


CONROE CREOSOTE SITE

CONROE, TEXAS



EPA Region 6

EPA ID#: TXD008091951

Site ID: 0601732

State Congressional District: 08

Updated: May 2, 2005

Next Update: September 2005

Site Description

Location: Conroe, Montgomery County, approximately 30 miles north of Houston, Texas.

Population: Approximately 15,000 people live within two miles of the site.

Setting: The site consists of 147 acres and is a former wood treating facility. There is a residential community to the east, a wooded area to the north, and commercial activities to the west and south.

Hydrology: The shallow water-bearing zone is 60 feet deep and is currently not being used. The first water-bearing zone used for domestic supply is 125 feet deep. The City of Conroe water supply is 400 to 1000 feet below the surface.

Present Status and Issues

- EPA will begin the long-term ground water monitoring program in 2005 to assess the natural attenuation of pentachlorophenol in the ground water.
- EPA conducted site inspections on February 16, 2005, and April 21, 2004. The site remains secured by security fencing and locked gates. The landfill was marked with signs, locked gates, and security fencing. All ground water monitoring wells had locked caps.
- EPA completed all removal and remedial activities in September 2003.
- EPA issued a Proposed Plan on July 18, 2003, identifying a preferred remedy of monitored natural attenuation for the ground water contamination and no further action for the on-site soils and off-site sediment in Stewart's Creek. The soils and sediments contaminated by the former facility operations have been addressed during the EPA removal action at the site. The public comment period closed on August 18, 2003, and the Record of Decision was signed on September 29, 2003.
- EPA completed the ground water investigation at the site. EPA installed 24 monitoring wells at the site and identified a relatively small pentachlorophenol (PCP) plume in the 60 foot sand beneath the former tank battery and PCP process area.

WASTES AND VOLUMES

The EPA Region 6 Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START-2) conducted a removal assessment of the facility in January 2002. The tanks, cylinders, impoundments, drums and soils were sampled and analyzed for volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, and metals. In addition, five soil samples were analyzed for dioxins and furans. Approximately 252,000 cubic yards of soils exceeded the EPA Region 6 Human Health Medium-Specific Screening Levels for either arsenic, chromium, pentachlorophenol, total creosote compounds, or dioxin and furans and were placed in the site RCRA vault.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

NPL Inclusion Proposal Date: April 30, 2003
NPL Inclusion Final Date: September 22, 2003
NPL Deletion Proposal Date: n/a
NPL Deletion Final Date: n/a

SITE MAP

The site map with monitoring well locations, the extent of ground water contamination, and site features can be found in the Record of Decision for the Site under **Decision Documents** on the EPA Region 6 website.

SITE HISTORY

- The facility treated lumber, railroad cross-ties, poles, and fence posts. Three wood preserving processes, pentachlorophenol (PCP) process, creosote process, and copper chromated arsenate (CCA) process, were used at the facility. The pentachlorophenol process used pressure to force a solution of PCP dissolved in diesel into the pore spaces of the wood. The treated wood was then allowed to dry on a drip pad. Similarly, the creosote process used pressure to force a solution of creosote and diesel into the wood's pores. The copper chromated arsenate treatment process is also known as Wolmanizing. The facility was closed down by the Montgomery County Tax Assessor/Collector in March 1997, due to delinquent taxes, and the operation was never restarted. The Site is still owned by the Conroe Creosoting Company.

ENFORCEMENT HISTORY

- General Notice letter for Removal was issued to Conroe Creosoting Company on July 2, 2002. They declined to conduct the removal action based on a claim of inability-to-pay.
- Waiver of Special Notice letter for RI/FS and RD/RA was issued to Conroe Creosoting Company on July 2, 2003. The company declined to conduct the remedial action based on a claim of inability-to-pay. The EPA is currently analyzing this claim.

HUMAN HEALTH AND ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- Screening levels have been established for the industrial site, for the adjoining Stewart's Creek and residential properties in the flood area of Stewart's Creek.

RECORD OF DECISION

- The EPA signed Record of Decision on September 29, 2003.
- The EPA signed the Preliminary Close Out Report on September 30, 2003.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Community Involvement Plan: July 1, 2003
- Open houses and workshops: 11/14/02, 4/29/03, 5/29/03, 6/26/03
- Proposed Plan Fact Sheet: July 18, 2003
- Proposed Plan Public Meeting: July 31, 2003
- ROD Public Notice: in October 2003
- Milestone Fact Sheets: 5/02, 8/02, 8/02, 9/24/02, 10/02, 10/02, 1/03, 4/03,
- Citizens on site mailing list: 1800
- Site Repository: Montgomery County Memorial Library
104 I-45 North, Conroe, TX 77301, (936) 539-7814

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

- Availability Notice: 5/9/03
- Letters of Intent (LOI): N/A
- Final Application Received: N/A
- Grant Award: N/A
- Current Status: N/A

SITE CONTACTS

EPA On-Scene Coordinator:	Pat Hammack, (214) 665-2214
EPA Remedial Project Managers:	Vince Malott, (214) 665-8313
EPA Site Attorney:	I-Jung Chiang, (214) 665-2160
EPA Cost Recovery:	Barbara Aldridge, (214) 665-2712
EPA Community Involvement:	Tim Wilson, (214) 665-2248 or 1-800-533-3508
EPA Region 6 Public Liaison:	Arnold Ondarza, (303) 312-6777
TCEQ State Contact:	Jeffery Patterson, (512) 239-2489 email: jepatter@tceq.state.tx.us

REALIZED CLEANUP BENEFITS

- The removal action addressed contamination above health based levels at on-site and off-site locations, including Stewart's Creek and off-site drainage areas.
- The ground water investigation has determined that contamination from the facility has only impacted the ground water beneath the facility and is not a threat to the surrounding private water supply wells. The long-term monitoring program will continue to monitor the contaminant levels.
- Open house community meetings were held monthly between April and July 2003 to provide site status information and answer community questions.